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*Etat Sommaire par Séries des Documents Conservés aux Archives Nationales.* Paris, Librairie Charles Delagrave, 1891. — Large 4to, 518 pp.

This volume has been issued under the direction of M. Servois, who is general custodian of the national archives at Paris. It is, in spite of its bulk, a brief catalogue of the contents of the French national archives. Three attempts have hitherto been made to publish catalogues of this great collection. M. Daunou issued a brief *Tableau Systématique* in 1811. In 1867 the publication of a much more elaborate catalogue, called the *Inventaire Générale*, was begun, but it has not been completed. In 1871 M. Maury published the first part of a *Tableau Méthodique*, containing the lists of the documents relating to French history previous to 1789 arranged according to subjects. In 1885 it was resolved to reissue the *Inventaire Générale* with necessary additions and corrections. The work was intrusted to the archivists in immediate charge of the various series. The result is the volume before us, the authorized catalogue of the entire collection, to which is added an elaborate index to facilitate the work of the investigator. It is also announced that from time to time in the future, calendars will be published giving fuller descriptions of certain classes and groups of documents. In this way the archives will be made more accessible to scholars.

In this volume no attempt is made, as in the *Calendars of State Papers* issued by the officials of the Record Office in London, to give the contents of documents. Neither is each separate document, or even bundle of papers, mentioned. Instead, only the subject matter contained in groups larger or smaller is given. But the explanations, though brief, are so clear, and the classification in the main so natural, that the student can easily gain a correct general idea of the contents of the archives. The documents are arranged in seven sections — legislative, administrative, administrative and historical, historical, the domains, judicial, legislative and judicial. Under each of these sections appears one or more series. The contents of each series are arranged under various subordinate heads.

The formation of the national archives of France began during the first revolution. Since that time additions have been made from the offices of various departments of the central government and from other sources. Some documents have also been transferred from the archives to the National Library, where they are more accessible to students. What now are some of the most valuable features of this great national collection, as they appear in this catalogue?

The student of French history under the old monarchy will find in

the *Trésor des Chartes* the records of the feudal rights and obligations existing between the kings and their great vassals throughout the country; the documents issued during the conflict between Philip IV and Boniface VIII and during the prosecution of the Templars; also a vast number of transcripts of cartularies and other important records. Under another series are the decrees of the French kings from the Merovingian period to 1789; the history of the royal family, its marriages, wills and *apanages*; the records of many sessions of the States General, of the provincial estates, of the parliaments; an important collection of documents concerning the history of Paris from the twelfth to the eighteenth century; the records of negotiations with foreign states, particularly with Spain. Among the materials for the ecclesiastical history of France is a collection of papal bulls and letters extending from the time of Charlemagne to the beginning of the Revolution; the archives of the archbishopric of Paris, of the chapter of Notre-Dame, of the parishes and collegiate churches connected with the diocese of the city; and a vast array of documents concerning the monastic orders and foundations in all parts of France. The student of French administration on its historic side will find here the records of the *Contrôle Générale des Finances* under the old régime,—the letters from intendants during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries being particularly important. In order to complete his views of any period he will have to consult the records of the *Chambre des Comptes de Paris*, and the descriptions of the royal domains, giving their extent, the titles by which they were held, and the payments due from them. In another section of the archives will be found the records of the royal household and of all the great offices connected therewith. Under the head of local administration the student will find the documents relating to the history of the ancient *généralités*, the most important part of the collection being that in reference to Languedoc. Here also are the materials for the administrative history of Paris. A most attractive series to the historian is that containing the records of the confiscations and persecutions following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Under the *Section Judiciaire* are to be found the proceedings of the various royal councils and commissions while acting in a judicial capacity, of the parliament of Paris, of the Royal Chancery; also the records of the courts of special jurisdiction, as the *Cour des Aides*, the *Cour des Monnaies*, the admiralty court, *etc.* Finally, in this section are the records of the *Châtelet de Paris*, and of the office of Provost of the Île de France.

But the collection of materials in the national archives for the history of modern France is apparently more complete than that relating to the old monarchy. Here are the proceedings in full of the various legislative bodies which have existed in France since 1789; of the revolu-

tionary tribunals created by the law of August 17, 1792, and by later acts; of the Committee of Public Safety and other councils organized for executive purposes by the conventions; of the agents and committees sent by the assemblies throughout France and into Belgium to extend the ideas and policy of the Revolution. In the archives also are pretty complete lists of the estates confiscated and the corporations suppressed during the Revolution. Under the series entitled *Administration Générale* are to be found the documents relating to the national administrative system in its modern form and in all its departments. There one could study at length the results brought about by the events of the revolutionary and Napoleonic era. Under the head of the *Collection Rondonneau* — named from an archivist of the last century — have been placed some of the most valuable documents in the national archives, relating to all periods of French history and to all departments of its administration.

Scholars the world over should welcome a liberal policy such as that which has led to the publication of this catalogue. It invites research among the sources of knowledge, at a place where are stored the records of a great nation's history. The hospitable spirit of which it bears evidence should attract students from this side of the Atlantic to the investigation, not simply of French colonial enterprise, but of French democracy and of the history of the nation in its remoter past.

HERBERT L. OSGOOD.

*Das Oesterreichische Staatsrecht (Verfassungs- und Verwaltungsrecht)*. Ein Lehr- und Handbuch. Von DR. LUDWIG GUMFLOWICZ, Professor in Graz. Wien, Manz'sche Buchhandlung, 1891. — xiii, 655 pp.

That the form of government adopted by a state depends less on the application of any preconceived theory than on existing political and social conditions, is a widely recognized fact. A most striking illustration of this fact is to be found in the public law of that complex of states and nationalities which is commonly known under the rather deceptive title of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The political conditions in this portion of Europe are very much what they were in England before the centralization of the Norman monarchy, or in France before the time of Louis XI. But the prospect of a similar result in unification and subjection to Teutonic rule is not bright. The monarch represents almost the only unifying force, and the methods which were once considered proper for him to use in consolidating the state are now regarded as inconsistent with individual and national rights. Constitutionalism came too soon into the world for the highest good of